

M I N U T E S
Thirty-Fourth Annual Session
Of The
Southwest Virginia
Association

—Of—
FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCHES
And
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

Held With The
Marthas Chapel Freewill
Baptist Church

May 16
1970

The next session will convene with the Glamorgan Chapel Church of Wise, Va., on Saturday before the third Sunday in May, 1971, at 9:00 A. M.

O F F I C E R S

Hobert Addington, Moderator	Wise, Va.
Ray Goode, Asst. Moderator	Wise, Va.
Anson Evans, Clerk	Coeburn, Va.
Elmer Miner, Asst. Clerk	Coeburn, Va.
Elmer Miner, Treasurer	Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

	Exp. of Office
Ray Goode, Wise, Va.	1971
L. T. Stallard, Pound, Va.	1972
Paul Sams, Wise, Va.	1973

Wise County Executive Board

Homer Bays, Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	1971
Elmer Miner, Rt. 1, Coeburn, Va.	1972
Hardin Brewer, Rt. 2, Coeburn, Va.	1973
Roy Kennedy, Rt. 1, St. Paul, Va.	1974
Charlie Castle, Big Stone Gap, Va.	1975

Wise County Ordaining Council

C. L. Kilgore, Coeburn, Va.	1971
Eddie Sturgill, Jenkins, Ky.	1972
Hobert Addington, Wise, Va.	1973
Ralph Flannery, Dungannon, Va.	1974
Denver Dean, Wise, Va.	1975

League Field Worker

Paul Samms, Rt. 1, Wise, Va.	1971
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ENROLLMENT

MINISTERS

Hobert Addington	Jim Cox
I. T. Stallard	Elmer Miner
J. V. Estep	J. D. Kilgore
Ray Goode	Jeff Salyers
Denver Dean	Hansford Mullins

DEACONS

Homer Bays
George Patrick
Paul Sams

Anson Evans
Wilton Dail

DELEGATES

August Adkins
Beulah Sheppard
Fay Sams

Lakie Osborne
H. M. Osborne
Mrs. I. T. Stallard

Lotus Hensley

P R O C E E D I N G S

Nine O'clock

The association opened with a short devotional, singing by the congregation under the direction of Bro. Oscar Sheppard. Opening song, "The Unclouded Day". Scripture reading Psalm 90:1 & 2. Prayer offered by Rev. Jeff Salyers. Song, "Amazing Grace".

The Moderator, Rev. J. D. Kilgore, took the chair and declared the association open for business, and work began as follows:

A moment of silent prayer in memory of Bro. Leslie Ketron, who had served this association for many years as clerk before God called him home.

A motion was made that Bro. Anson Evans be clerk and Rev. Elmer Miner the assistant clerk, and it was unanimously approved by the association.

The enrollment and seating of ministers, deacons and delegates as they appear in the enrollment.

Brother Wilton H. Dail, representing Tidewater Conference, gave a report on the work there, which was very much enjoyed by all and unanimously accepted by the association.

Rev. J. D. Kilgore and Rev. Ray Goode volunteered to attend the Tidewater Association.

At this time messengers were chosen to the following associations: Rev. Ray Goode, Elmer Miner, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Sheppard to the John Thomas Association,

which will convene with Meade's Chapel on Friday and Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September. Rev. Ray Goode to the Clinch Valley Association on May 8-9, 1971

Delegates from the John Thomas Association, Milford Craft and Jonah D. Wright, were welcomed.

The report of the association treasurer, Rev. Elmer Miner, was read and approved as it appears in these minutes.

Officers were elected, or retained, as they appear on the officer's page of these minutes.

The miniiters' reports were read and those approved as read appear in these minutes.

11 O'Clock

The worship service was opened with the hymn "I'm Going That Way". Due to the absence of the scheduled speaker, Rev. Edgar Baltimore, Rev. Jim Cox was the speaker of the hour. Scripture reading Acts 2:42-47. Prayer by Bro. Cox, and his text was "Formula For Church Growth" from which he delivered a wonderful message enjoyed by all present. Sang "Farther Along" and had a handshake.

A welcome was made by pastor, Rev. Ray Goode. Bro. Wilton Dail gave the blessing for the food. Adjourned until one o'clock.

One O'Clock

The afternoon business session opened with special singing by the Martha Chapel Singers with "When I Get Home". Scripture reading, Acts 3:1-6. Prayer by Bro. Ray Goode. The moderator declared the association open for business, which resumed as follows:

The letter and report from Wise County Quarterly Conference read and approved as they appear in these minutes.

The report from the Southwest Virginia Ministers' Conference was read and approved as it appears in these minutes.

The Superannuation report by Mrs. L. M. Salyer, treasurer, read and approved as it appears in these minutes.

The Executive Board recommended the next association convene with Glamorgan Chapel, Wise, Va., on Saturday before the 3rd Sunday in May.

The eleven o'clock speaker Rev. I. T. Stallard.

Messengers chosen to the State Association at Marion, Va., June 19, 20, 1970: Bro. and Sis. George Patrick, Bro. Elmer Miner, Bro. and Sis. Paul Sams, and Bro. Hansford Mullins.

The association approved the printing of 1000 minutes.

Bro. Wilton Dail, executive secretary-treasurer of the Virginia State Home Mission Board, gave a report of this work. His report was enjoyed by all and unanimously accepted by the association.

An offering of \$34.62 was received for Bro. Jim Cox who is planning to go to Roanoke to establish a Free-will Baptist church there.

Unanimously voted to adjourn until next appointed time, unless especially called together by the moderator.

Blessing for offering and benediction by Bro. Hansford Mullins.

Moderator, Rev. J. D. Kilgore

Clerks, Anson Evans

Elmer Miner

GREETINGS: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists when convened with Martha's Chapel of Pound, Va., May 16, 1970. We have chosen all delegates from our last conference as messengers. These, we pray, may sit with you and aid you in your godly work. Our standing is as follows:

Number of churches -----	37
Church membership -----	1935
Number of Sunday Schools -----	37
Sunday School membership -----	2469
Number Youth Leagues -----	19
League membership -----	516

Church members received -----	158
Members dismissed -----	69
Members deceased -----	30
Ordained Ministers -----	66
Licentates -----	3

DISBURSEMENTS

Pastors -----	\$14,827.81
Evangelistic work -----	6,346.48
Home for children -----	3,223.14
Superannuation -----	433.76
Home missions -----	1,532.25
Foreign missions -----	931.42
Literature and publications -----	3,211.79
Building and repairs -----	12,247.21
Minute fund enclosed -----	232.20

Done by order of the Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists while in regular session with West End Freewill Baptist Church of Big Stone Gap, Va., April 11, 1970.

Moderators: REV. RAY GOODE
REV. U. L. GRAHAM
Clerks:: ANSON EVANS
BUENA EVANS

GREETINGS: To the Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptist when convened with Martha's Chapel, Pound, Va., May 16, 1970. We herewith submit the following report of the Southwest Virginia Ministerial Association.

Ministers Conference Report

The Southwest Virginia Ministerial Association convened Friday night, April 10, 1970, at the Esserville Freewill Baptist Church, Esserville, Va., with 41 reporting in person and 12 by letter. Number on roll 64.

OFFICERS

Rev. G. T. Francis ----- President
Rev Hobart Addington ----- Vice President
Rev. C. L. Kilgore ----- Sec'y-Treas.

MINISTER'S CONDUCT BOARD

Rev. Ralph Flanary 1970	Rev. James E. Laney 1973
Rev. Hobart Addington 1971	Rev. J. D. Kilgore 1974
Rev. C. B. Addison 1972	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Rev. G. T. Francis	Rev. B. R. Powers
Rev. C. L. Kilgore	Rev. Ralph Flanary
Rev. L. T. Stallard	

Balance in treasury beginning of year-----	\$107.97
Receipts during year -----	84.56
	192.53

Less Disbursements:

Flowers for deceased ministers -----	\$20.80
Contributions on printing minutes -----	25.00
Post cards and printing -----	18.59
Contribution to Superannuation Fund --	80.00
Total disbursements during year -----	\$144.39

Balance in treasury at end of year -----	\$ 48.14
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The minister's cards were read and passed on by the Ministers' Conference and recommended to this association now in session.

Rev. G. T. Francis, President
Pound, Va. 24279
Rev. C. L. Kilgore, Sec'y-Treas.
Coeburn, Va, 24230

Treasurer's Report

5-17-69 Balance carried forward -----	\$ 4.62
5-17-69 Rec'd Wise County Conference -----	231.36
5-17-69 Children's Home offering -----	30.48
5-17-69 E. J. Kilgore, Sr. donation -----	5.00
1-15-70 Ministers Conference donation -----	25.00
1-13-70 Rec'd Wise County Quarterly Conf.	25.00
Total Recorded -----	321.46
Total Disbursements -----	318.27
5-16-70 Balance in treasury -----	\$ 3.19

DISBURSEMENTS

5-17-69 L. G. Ketrons, Clerk (manuscript) -----	\$ 55.00
5-17-69 C. L. Kilgore, Moderator -----	10.00
5-17-69 FWB Home for children -----	30.48
5-17-69 Virginia State Association -----	50.00
5-17-69 Elmer Miner, Treas. -----	10.00
1-5-70 Beverly's Print Shop -----	162.79

Total Disbursements ----- \$318.27

Respectfully submitted: ELMER MINER, Treas.

SUPERANNUATION REPORT

Carried forward from June 1, 1969 --- 381.87

Receipts to May 4, 1970 ----- 673.28

Total Receipts ----- \$1,055.15

Disbursements: Rev. Ben Powers, Rev. Charlie
Mullins, Rev. Orville O'Quinn, and Rev

James A. Ramey ----- \$880.00

Postage and expenses ----- 10.00

Total Disbursements ----- \$890.00

BALANCE ON HAND May 4, 1970 ----- \$165.15

MRS. L. M. SALYER, Treasurer

ANNUAL MINISTERS' REPORT

MINISTERS	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professn's Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions to Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Addington, Hobert	62	1	0	3	0	1	1	1650	\$172.18
Addison, C. B.	96	1	1	5	0	4	1	0	107.00
Adkins, Hattie									
Ashworth, Howard									
Ball, S R.									
Baltimore, Edgar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.0
Bevins, Jeff	70	0	3	32	16	0	0	3000	20.00
Bevins, Robert	40	0	4	30	16	0	0	5000	75.00
Blevins, Palmer	104	1	0	1	2	2	1	25000	600.00
Broskey, Bernard	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	90.00
Berry, Burlie	50	0	0	2	1	0	0	500	.0
Craiger, Roger									00
Cowden, Jess	50	0	3	14	18	0	2	1000	20.00
Crawford, Billy R.									
Cox, James									
Dean, Denver	52	2	1	10	6	3	3	1000	600.00
Dixon, Robert	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	250	300.00
Dotson, Carson									
Estep, J. V.	68	1	0	3	0	0	5	2833	330.33
Flanary, Ralph	112	0	3	19	3	0	16	1500	300.00
Francis, G. T.	100	1	1	6	2	0	8	1200	600.00
Freeman, Roger									
Graham, U. L.	130	1	2	24	20	30	10	8000	1200.00
Greear, G. T.									
Goode, Ray L.	0	1	7	0	0	0	0	0	.0
Hall, Milam									
Hicks James L.	52	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	.0
Holmes, Theodore	0	0	3	36	20	18	11	9000	.0
Honeycutt, Perry	35	1	0	0	0	2	1	500	175.00
Jessee, Vestus	65	0	2	21	14	2	1	3000	72.00
Kennedy, Roy C.	106	1	3	13	13	12	10	2000	800.00
Kilgore, C. L.	80	1	0	5	3	0	15	2500	200.00
Kilgore, J. D.	172	1	1	29	31	22	6	11275	265.00
Kilgore, J. Harold	101	2	2	20	5	2	15	10000	.0
Kilgore, Roy	65	2	1	3	2	4	5	0	.0
Kilgore, William	33	1	0	4	1	2	1	0	300.00
Kiser, Willard									

MINISTERS	Sermons Preached	Churches Pastored	Revivals Held	Professions Witnessed	Number Baptized	Additions To Church	Funerals Preached	Miles Traveled	Money Received
Layne, C. B.	40	1	0	10	5	4	5	0	.0
Laney, James E.									
Leonard, Paul									
McFarland, Richard									
Maness, William C.	102	2	2	14	5	2	3	3000	150.00
Miner, Elmer	80	2	2	10	12	19	1	4312	431.00
Moore, Kermit	80	1	1	25	15	10	10	2000	800.00
Moore, Melvin	54	1	0	0	0	0	1	800	100.00
Mullins, Charlie									
Mullins, Danny									
Mullins, Hansford	40	1	2	6	3	3	2	0	35.00
Mullins, Thurman	0	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	.0
Mullins, Leroy	30	0	0	3	0	0	0	200	20.00
Powers, Arnold									
Powers, B. R.	152	1	1	7	8	0	94	0	.0
Powers, David	80	1	0	18	16	5	12	0	.0
Ramey, James A.	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	.0
Ritchie, Glenn	103	1	4	11	15	13	1	7887	1128.38
Robbins, Ethel									
Rose, James	66	2	1	3	0	7	8	650	120.00
Salyers, Della	25	0	0	0	0	0	3	72	47.00
Salyer Jeff	49	0	2	4	2	0	9	0	.0
Slemp, Joel	32	1	0	7	6	0	0	3000	120.00
Stallard, I. T.	80	1	2	3	0	1	3	1500	.0
Sturgill, Eddie	137	1	6	43	23	6	8	8170	1603.00
Sturgill, Fred									
Summers, Garland H.	00	1	0	0	0	0	0	1000	.0
Tate, Tyler	60	1	3	6	4	0	2	3296	322.36
Turner, C. G.									

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHURCHES

CHURCH	Membership	Paid Pastor	Paid Evangelist	Paid Orphanage	Super-annuation	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Literature & Publications	Sunday School Membership	League Membership	PASTOR
Dungannon	152	480.00	1,051.94	302.02	20.00	24.27	152.46	137.82	92	25	Echol Carter
Beech Grove	26	301.80	222.00	80.00		.0	.0	92.93	52	0	Elmer Miner
Gillenwaters	20		.0	.0	.0	0	.0	7.00	20	0	Roy Kilgore
Beckners	38	17.70	.0	20.00	15.00	.0	.0	137.89	60	0	Charles Baker
Mary's Chapel	153	900.00	360.00	325.21	20.00	152.00	.0	543.40	207	43	Eddie Sturgill
Ramsey	100	146.84	714.98	146.34	20.00	20.00	.0	13.85	100	43	James Ramey
Stevens	40	195.00	45.00	36.25	.0	130.00	.0	43.95	45	20	Melvin Moore
Mt. Olive	36	230.00	129.87	65.00	12.00	.0	.0	109.80	71	25	David Powers
Wilsons	42	300.00	60.35	90.00	20.00	27.65	97.46	70.17	70	30	Harold Kilgore
Mt. View	40	35.00	25.00	.0	11.00	.0	.0	40.00	80	25	C. B. Addison
Indian Creek	114	300.00	30.00	138.41	12.00	594.20	.0	121.15	80	14	William Kilgore
Davis Chapel	28	305.00	166.00	30.00	14.00	.0	.0	67.04	48	42	Roger Crager
Hopkins Chapel	52	140.00	52.00	68.98	20.00	.0	.0	29.40	52	0	J. D. Kilgore
Bull Run 1st	33	164.50	65.50	90.00	20.00	20.00	.0	62.31	40	0	James Rose
Stallard Memorial	62	743.43	1,246.40	219.50	20.00	.0	60.00	11.67	70	0	Roy Kennedy
Bethel	33	.0	.0	16.71	9.10	.0	.0	77.44	54	0	C. B. Layne
West End	108	1,650.00	170.00	339.34	20.00	281.94	66.50	133.98	193	0	U. L. Graham
Valley View	29	90.00	.0	.0	20.00	.0	.0	45.61	29	0	Perry Honeycutt

Lone Pine	58	553.17	175.00	108.11	20.00	90.00	54.00	153.77	82	22	G. T. Francis
Marthas Chap.	64	100.00	8.00	.0	10.00	.0	.0	61.20	82	0	Ray Goode
Glanmorgan	81	650.00	140.00	240.00	19.50	30.00	120.00	138.60	120	28	Denver Dean
Dry Fork	44	127.73	79.50	45.00	20.00	.0	.0	86.94	55	20	Hobert Addington
Central	71....	1,270.00	338.29	120.00	.0	75.00	255.00	154.74	70	25	Dewey Bernard
Inman	31	2,543.14	460.42	45.00	.0	.0	.0	49.48	53	15	C. L. Kilgore
West Norton	28	400.00	249.00	54.14	20.00	.0	115.00	39.02	40	15	Howard Ashworth
Esserville	62	330.00	108.27	141.95	20.00	33.98	20.00	196.72	94	54	J. T. Greear
Bondtown	16	.0	30.00	15.00	6.50	.0	.0	11.74	45	0	J. E. Laney
Durham	22	230.07	.0	101.79	.0	.0	.0	59.97	55	0	Bernard Bloskey
Flatwoods	68	227.17	.0	35.00	.0	.0	.0	47.95	70	0	Tyler Tate
Pippins	30	.0	.0	26.50	6.00	4.00	.0	11.00	25	0	Ray Goode
Kelly View	59	.0	143.35	.0	.0	.0	.0	16.85	30	0	Willard Kiser
Toms Creek	9	0	0	15.30	1.50	.0	.0	10.00	30	0	Theodore Holmes
Gladly Fork	48	105.00	125.00	40.00	20.00	.0	.0	76.01	45	0	Garland Summers
Rock Lick	45	630.00	0	135.00	23.66	.0	.0	78.71	57	23	I. T. Stallard
Calvary	15	512.31	0	0	.0	.0	.0	33.13	18	27	Harold Kilgore
Colechester	66	1,088.95	150.00	139.80	13.50	40.00	.0	176.35	113	0	J. V. Estep
Reeds Valley	12	.0	.0	9.00	.0	9.20	.0	13.80	21	0	Kermit Moore
										0	Elmer Miner

IN MEMORY



BRO. WALKER HALL

Born Oct. 26, 1895, departed this life May 25, 1968 at the age of 73.

Bro Hall in his christian life was a bass singer, trustee of Dry Fork Church, of which he was a charter member. He was a dedicated christian and great worker in his community, and will be missed by all who knew him.

Funeral services were at Dry Fork Church, conducted by Rev. S. M. McFall and Rev. Shelby Jackson.

REV. SHELBY JACKSON

Age 72 departed this life Nov. 18 1969. Rev. Jackson preached the gospel for 36 years and traveled many miles searching for lost souls. He and his wife were members of Central Church of Norton and he was pastor of Dry Fork Church and he was on the ordaining council, a seat he had for many years. Rev. Jackson was loved greatly and we miss his presence, but we thank God for a hope that we will meet again in a perfect place.

Funeral services were held at Central Church with Rev. W. E. Harrison and Rev. C. L. Kilgore conducting the service.

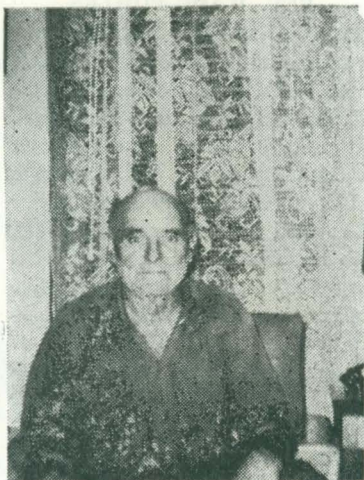


He was born August 18, 1892, deceased May 13, 1969. He was a member of Mt. View Church where he preached his first sermon and also the last sermon.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margie Robinette, seven daughters, two sons and five sisters, four brothers, 47 grand-children and 19 great-grandchildren.

He preached the gospel for 44 years. He was the first elected clerk of Wise County Quarterly Conference of Freewill Baptists, serving for 18 years, and he also served as clerk of the state association for some time.

He was faithful in his service to God, and left a good example for his loved ones to follow. He is lovingly missed by all who knew him.



REV. COVEY A. ROBINETTE



NANCY JANE JACKSON

Nancy Jane Jackson, daughter of the late Joshua Hayes and Drusilla Webb Hayes, departed this life December 9, 1969, at the age of 82 years.

She leaves to mourn her loss five daughters, three sons, four brothers, 22 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She was a member of Gladys Fork Freewill Baptist Church and was faithful until the end. We feel like our loss is Heaven's gain.

REV. WADE POWERS

At age 75, he had been a minister in the Freewill Baptist Church for 42 years. He was ordained in 1928. He and his brother, Ben, traveled many miles together and preached the gospel and sang the praises of God. Many souls were led to God by his preaching.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Mary Powers, two daughters, five sons, one step-daughter, four step-sons, two sisters, one brother, 47 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren and many friends who will miss him very much.

Funeral services were held in the Indian Creek Freewill Baptist Church on April 25, 1970, with the Rev. Albert Dingus officiating. Burial was in Collins-Gilliam Cemetery.





BROTHER LESLIE G. KETRON

BRO. LESLIE G. KETRON, age 54, departed this life Feb. 23. 1970. Brother Les had been in bad health for a long time, yet he and his wife, Minnie Bell worked tirelessly together in God's work. Born Les served as deacon, songleader, music teacher and Sunday School superintendent. At the time of his death he was clerk of the Wise County Quarterly Conference and yearly association of the Free Will Baptists. A office he and his wife held for twenty years. He was presented with a certificate of gratitude from his churches for the wonderful way he had practiced the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Oh, how we miss his voice in song, prayer and his touch of comfort in time of trouble. Funeral services were held at Mary's Chapel, and conducted by Rev. Elmer Miner and Rev. Jimmy Lee Meade.

P R E F A C E

For well over two hundred years there has been a Baptist people in the United States who preached and practiced "Freedom of the Will". A great many of the Baptists came from Wales and London to the eastern part of the United States in the early settling of this country. Among the earliest records available, we find the name of Paul Palmer, who preached and organized a church in Perquimans, North Carolina, in the year 1727. This church was later lost to the Calvinistic Baptists. Not only this church was lost, but several others in the course of time were lost, but a sufficient number kept the "Faith once delivered to the saints" that a steady increase has prevailed throughout the years.

Those who are called Free Will Baptists in North Carolina were first called by this name by those who opposed the doctrine of "Freedom of the will". The same thing was true in the north with the Rev. Benjamin Randall and his followers, whose church was organized at New Durham, N. H., in the year of 1780. The name was later adopted by the believers in "Salvation by Grace through Faith", who preached freedom of the will.

Among these believers it was deemed wise to set forth certain outstanding fundamental doctrines as believed by the denominations. In several of the states there were booklets published setting forth the "Articles of Faith". Many of the Disciplines set forth had different ways of doing things, while the fundamental doctrine was the same in all. These Disciplines and the Articles of Faith set forth the fact that "these were set forth for the convenience" with the solemn declaration that "the Bible is infallible" and in every instance it was plainly set forth that "We believe the whole Scriptures to be the word of God".

In the year 1935, at Cofer's Chapel, Nashville, Tenn., a committee was elected for the purpose of formulating, by way of a revision, a treatise out of the various Disciplines and former Treatise, to be used in Free Will Baptist churches. This committee was composed of the following ministers, namely: J. C. Griffin, chairman; and Winford Davis, E. B. Joyner, J. S. Frederick, E. E. Morris, W. B. Davenport, Millard Vanhooose, C. B. Thompson, and Ralph Staten, with two laymen, M. L. Morris and Hubert Post. This committee worked for several hours and then reported. A motion was carried that the report be accepted. In

the year 1947, while the National Association was in session at Highland Park, F.W.B. Church in Detroit, Michigan, a resolution was passed in which several members of the General Board of the National Association and one member from each affiliated state convention or association was to meet and revise the Treatise and report at the next session of the National Association. This committee, composed of the following ministers, namely: J. L. Welch, chairman; R. B. Crawford, J. C. Griffin, J. F. Miller, K. V. Shutes, F. S. Vanhoose, L. A. Holliday, I. W. Yandall, M. L. Sutton, Ralph Staten, Harry Beatty, H. E. Willis, Floyd Cherry, R. N. Hinnant, Seldon Bullard, C. H. Curry and J. A. Lambert met at Cofer's Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., in April and the revision was made and presented to the National Association in session in the Pocahontas Free Will Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Arkansas, July, 1948, and was adopted.

CHURCH COVENANT

HAVING GIVEN ourselves to God by faith in Christ, and adopted the Word of God as our rule of faith and practice, we now give ourselves to one another by the will of God in this solemn covenant.

We promise by His grace, to love and obey Him in all things, to avoid all appearance of evil, to abstain from all sinful amusements and unholy conformity to the world, from all sanctions of the use and sale of intoxicating beverages, and to "provide things honest in the sight of all men".

We agree faithfully to discharge our obligations in reference to the study of the Scriptures, secret prayer, family devotions, and social worship; and by self-denial, faith and good works endeavor to "grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ".

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together for church conferences; public worship, and the observance of the ordinances of the Gospel, nor fail to pay according to our ability for the support of the church, of its poor, and all benevolent work.

We agree to accept Christian admonition and reproof with meekness, and to watch over one another in love, endeavoring to "keep the unity of the spirit" in the bonds of peace; to be careful of one another's happiness and repu-

tation, admonish the erring, and, so far as we are able, promote the success of the church and of the Gospel.

We will everywhere hold Christian principle sacred and Christian obligations and enterprises supreme; counting it our chief purpose in life to extend the influence of Christ in society; constantly praying and toiling that the Kingdom of God may come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

To this end, we agree to labor for the promotion of educational and denominational enterprises, the support of missions, the success of Sunday Schools and evangelistic efforts for the salvation of the world. And may the God of peace sanctify us wholly and preserve us blameless unto the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

B Y - L A W S

1. The clerk or assistant clerk, or in their absence, the senior minister in years, shall call the association into conference, and if a quorum is present, the moderator, or in his absence, the assistant moderator shall take charge; and if neither of them be present, the senior minister in years shall act as moderator.

2. It shall be the duty of the clerk to enroll the delegates to the association, who shall present themselves with proper evidence of their rights to seats therein, and those enrolled by the clerk shall compose the association. In case of questionable representation, however, the case under question shall be referred to the credential committee.

3. It shall be the duty of every body belonging to this association to send a letter to every annual session of this association reporting in the same its spiritual condition, benevolent work, and its statistics. Any body belonging to this association which shall fail to represent itself for two successive sessions may be dismissed from the association by a two-thirds vote of all members present.

4. Each meeting shall be opened by reading a portion of the Bible and with prayer, and shall be closed with prayer.

5. By a two-thirds vote of all members present, ruling of the moderator may be overruled.

6. This association may correspond by messenger or otherwise with other religious bodies.

7. This association shall sit with open doors except when it shall go into a committee of the whole.

8. Any person not a member of this association may be allowed to take part in its discussions by obtaining permission from the moderator.

9. It shall be the duty of all members of the association to be present at the time appointed for each meeting, and anyone wishing to retire shall first obtain leave of the moderator.

10. No member shall absent himself from the association during its meeting without first obtaining permission from the moderator.

11. No person shall be allowed to nominate more than one member of any committee, provided the person nominated be elected.

12. The moderator shall not allow discussion when not carried on in a Christian spirit or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.

13. Anyone desiring to speak shall rise to his feet and address the moderator by the appellation, "Brother Moderator", but shall not speak further until recognized by the moderator.

14. The "yeas" and "nays" may be counted on any question by request of one-fifth of the members present.

15. No member of this association shall be allowed to speak more than ten minutes nor twice on the same subject without permission from the moderator.

16. It shall be the duty of the moderator to seat delegates in a body in a designated section of the assembly room at the beginning of each business session.

17. These by-laws may be altered or amended at any regular or adjourned session of this association by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

18. It shall be the duty of every minister who holds membership in this association to report in writing to every annual meeting of the association. If any minister fails to report to the association for two successive sessions, he may be dismissed from the association by two-thirds of the members present.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by the inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. **GOD.** There is one living and true God, revealed in

nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey.

3. **CHRIST.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God; in His human nature, truly man, the mediator between God and man, once crucified. He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever-present Saviour and Lord.

4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** The scriptures assign to the Holy spirit all the attributes of God.

5. **THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts of grace, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of man requires.

6. **THE SINFULNESS OF MAN.** Man was created innocent but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherit a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability sin and become guilty before God.

7. **THE WORK OF CHRIST.** The Son of God by His incarnation, life, suffering, death and resurrection affected for all a redemption from sin that is full and free and is the ground of salvation by faith.

8. **THE TERMS OF SALVATION.** The conditions of salvation are: 1. Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it; 2. Faith or the unreserved committal of ones self to Christ as Saviour and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin and becomes a child of God; 3. Continuance in faith and obedience until death.

9. **ELECTION.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ men become His elect.

10. **FREEDOM OF THE WILL.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the spirit, or to resist them and perish.

11. **SALVATION FREE.** God desires the salvation of all. The Gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all, and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life

freely.

12. **PERSEVERANCE.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.

13. **GOSPEL ORDINANCES.** Baptism, or the immersion of believers in water, and the **LORD'S SUPPER** are ordinances to be perpetuated under the Gospel; **FEET WASHING**, an ordinance teaching humility, of universal obligation, and to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **TITHING.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the Gospel (Mat. 23:23), and the Apostle Paul said, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him" (I Cor. 16:2).

15. **THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **RESURRECTION, JUDGMENT AND FINAL RETRIBUTION.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. They that have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation: then the wicked will "go away in eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life".

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Of the Ministers' Conference of The Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists

ARTICLE I—NAME: This organization shall be called the Ministers Conference of Southwest Virginia Association of Freewill Baptists.

ARTICLE II—MEMBERSHIP: The membership of this Ministers' Conference shall consist of ordained ministers in good standing who hold their membership in a Freewill Baptist Church within the Southwest Virginia Association area. This association is to issue cards annually to all members in good standing.

ARTICLE III—FINANCE: This Ministers' Conference will be financed by free-will offerings, which will be received at each session of the conference.

ARTICLE IV—PURPOSE: The purpose of this conference is to promote unity and brotherly love; to promote the Gospel; to promote intellectual and spiritual improvement, and to promote Exegetical. Doctrin-

ical and Homoeletical study of the scriptures.

Applicants for ministerial licenses must be qualified to preach the Gospel according to the scripture, and must be able to read and write and show a general willingness to grow in the ministry, and willing to abide by the by-laws and treatise of the Freewill Baptist Church.

ARTICLE V—OFFICERS: The officers of this conference shall be President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, the officers to be elected annually.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS:

Section 1. Executive Committee: The Executive Committee shall be composed of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two (2) members elected from the floor.

Section 2. Special Committees: Any special committee may be elected or appointed as needed.

Section 3. A Committee on Ministerial Conduct and Improvement: This Committee shall be composed of five pastors who have been in good standing for five (5) previous years, elected by the body. Their term of office shall be 1, 2, 3, 4, and five years. One new member to be elected each year.

ARTICLE VII—MEETINGS. The time of meetings of this Ministers' Conference shall be at 7:30 P. M. on Friday night preceding each Quarterly Conference.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS: This constitution may be amended or altered at any regular meeting of the Ministers' Conference by a three-fourths vote of ministers present provided the proposed amendment or alteration be presented in writing to the body at the last regular meeting.

B Y - L A W S

1. Each meeting shall be opened with Scripture reading and prayer and shall be closed with prayer.

2. Duties Of Officers:

O. President: It shall be the duty of the president to call each meeting to order, preside over all meetings, maintain proper Christian order and discipline in each meeting and to perform the various other duties relating to his office.

B. Vice President: It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to perform all the duties of the President in his absence.

C. Secretary-Treasurer: It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to record minutes, maintain records, keep accurate account of all finances and to perform such other duties as pertaining to his office. It shall further be his duty to notify all ministers in this Conference of

the time and place of each meeting three weeks in advance of the meeting.

3. It shall be the duty and responsibility of each minister to be present at all meetings if possible. He may report by letter or in person. Each minister must report by letter or person at least every four meetings to remain in good standing.
4. By a two-thirds vote of all ministers present, a ruling of the president may be overruled.
5. Any person not a member of this conference may be allowed to take part in its discussions by a majority vote of the body.
6. The President shall not allow discussions when not carried on in a Christian spirit, or when he thinks it will cause discord or division.
7. On any question of procedure ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER shall be final.
8. No minister of this conference shall be allowed to speak more than five (5) minutes or more than twice on the same subject without the permission of the president.

9. Duties of the Various Committees:

A. Executive Committee: It shall have the power to act in behalf of and for the Ministers Conference from one regular session to another. Any action taken by the Executive Committee when Conference is not in session shall be reported in writing to the next regular Conference for its approval.

B. Committee on Ministerial Conduct and Improvement:

It shall be the duty of this committee to hear any appeals which may be made to it by any minister appealing a decision of the Ordaining Council.

It shall be the duty of this committee to investigate unchristian conduct, Doctrine and Practices which are not in accord with the National Treatise of Freewill Baptists, and un-ethical Ministerial Practices or policies. If this committee deems it wise and expedient they should present written charges against any minister who is unsound in Doctrine or practices to the Southwest Virginia Ministers' Association.

It shall be the duty of this Committee, through every means at its disposal, to promote ministerial improvement in the fields of Pastoral Care, Administration and Preaching.

